

Serial No. 10/808,590

Attorney Docket No. 26B-032-RCE

REMARKS

Claims 1-5 and 7 are pending. Claims 6 and 8-13 have been canceled. The applicants respectfully request reconsideration and allowance of this application in view of the above amendments and the following remarks.

On 22 August 2006, the undersigned held an interview with examiner Chevalier to discuss the rejections. While no agreement was reached as to the disposition of the claims, it was agreed that the changes to claim 1 shown above clarify the claims and make the claims easier for the examiner to understand. It was also agreed that the applicants would explain the "mounting base portion" element of claim 1 and its support in the specification in this amendment so that the examiner can properly interpret this element of the claims.

To further summarize the interview, the undersigned argued that there is no correspondence between the elements recited in claim 1 and the weather strip of Nakajima *et al.* In the last office action, the examiner failed to identify which parts of the Nakajima *et al.* reference correspond to each claim element. Since the Nakajima *et al.* weather strip is completely different from the claimed weather strip, the applicants maintain that there is no correspondence between the elements of claim 1 and the weather strip of Nakajima *et al.* and this rejection should be withdrawn. While the examiner acknowledged that the weather strip of the present application is different from the prior art, the examiner was not fully satisfied with the claim language, and the examiner asserted that the molded part (30 or 117) of Nakajima *et al.* served as all of the following elements: the blocking piece; the base piece portion; the insertion portion; and the locking portion. However, the examiner agreed to reconsider the rejection.

As mentioned above, the examiner requested that the mounting base portion of claim 1 be explained. Claim 1 recites the mounting base portion as follows:

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"a mounting base portion attachable to one of a door peripheral portion and an opening portion of a vehicle"

The mounting base portion of claim 1 corresponds to the mounting base portion 31 that is illustrated, for example, in the embodiment of Figs. 3, 4, 5, 6, 7A and 7B. Note that Figs. 4 and 5 are views taken from the inner side of a corner molded portion 14. Thus, the lower side of the sheet in Fig. 3 corresponds to an inner direction and the upper part of the sheet in Fig. 3 corresponds to a peripheral or outer direction of the weather strip of Fig. 1. Thus, the mounting base portion 31 is shaped to be attached to an object such as an opening portion of a vehicle body or a door of a vehicle. Therefore, the name "mounting base" carries meaning in that this element serves to mount the weather strip and serves as a base for the other parts of the weather strip.

The mounting base portion 31 is further described at lines 4-6 of page 15 of the specification where it is stated that the lock portion 39 is locked on an inner surface of the mounting base portion 31. This is illustrated in Fig. 7B. By "inner" it is meant that the lock portion is locked on a surface of the mounting base portion that is within the hollow seal portion as shown in Fig. 7B.

The mounting base portion 31 is further described on lines 17-21 of page 15 of the specification where it is stated that a surface of the base piece portion 37 is connected with the mounting face of the mounting base portion 31 so that the base piece portion constitutes a part of the mounting base portion. This is illustrated in Fig. 7B. Thus, the mounting base portion of claim 1 is fully supported by the specification and cannot be interpreted to correspond to any part of the Nakajima *et al.* reference.

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Claims 1 and 4-7 stand rejected under 35 USC 102(b) as being anticipated by Nakajima *et al.* The applicants respectfully request that this rejection be withdrawn for the reasons given in the interview and the reasons given in the amendment of 17 August 2006.

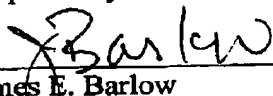
If the examiner repeats the rejection, the applicants respectfully request that the rejection include an explanation of the correspondence between each element of the rejected claims and the parts of the Nakajima *et al.* reference including Figure numbers and reference numbers where possible. It is impossible to follow the current rejection, because no such correspondence is provided. In other words, the examiner has failed to set forth a *prima facie* case due a lack of an explanation of how the claimed elements are satisfied by the Nakajima *et al.* reference in the rejection.

Entry of this amendment is respectfully requested because the amendment merely clarifies the claims in a manner agreed upon in an interview with the examiner.

In view of the foregoing, the applicants submit that this application is in condition for allowance. A timely notice to that effect is respectfully requested. If questions relating to patentability remain, the examiner is invited to contact the undersigned by telephone.

If there are any problems with the payment of fees, please charge any underpayments and credit any overpayments to Deposit Account No. 50-1147.

Respectfully submitted,


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